



Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye
Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity
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Trustee Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair	Superintendent Otilia Olteanu	Principal Eugenia Korinis	Vice-Principal Omari White	Office Admin Team Cathy Consiglio Stella Ditri
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IMPORTANT!
EARLY DISMISSAL APRIL 8TH



Dear families,

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a full solar eclipse will occur, which will block the sun's light in some areas.

In York Region, we will experience effects of the eclipse between roughly 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., which coincides with the scheduled dismissal times for our schools. We have heard concerns regarding the potential for students being outside and inadvertently looking at the sun, which may cause serious health problems, such as loss of eyesight. We have also heard concerns of traffic and students walking home during peak darkness.

Out of concern for student safety, on April 8, 2024, all students in elementary and secondary schools will be dismissed early. **Your school will confirm and communicate the actual dismissal time.** Student after school activities will also be cancelled for that afternoon.

ELDER'S MILLS STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED AT 12:15

Transportation services such as busing and taxis will be adjusted for the early dismissal. The schedule for student transportation in the morning of April 8 will remain the same. Transportation in the afternoon will be modified to align with the early dismissal time and will be communicated to families.

As you may have seen, some Ontario school boards moved a preexisting April PA Day to coincide with the eclipse on April 8. This is not possible for our board due to contractual obligations, prior commitments and because there is no preexisting April PA Day.

We are working with child care providers to determine their plans for the day. If you have questions about child care, please contact your child's child care provider directly.

The [Government of Canada website](#) has additional information related to solar eclipses that you may review.

Please know that this decision was made with student safety at its centre. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

YRDSB

What's Happening @ EMPS!

Felicitations!

EMPS Students represented our community at this year's Earth Hour Vaughan City Hall event on Saturday, March 23, 2024! Our students had the opportunity to demonstrate their Science projects and entered the EcoBanner contest. Felicitations! Congratulations to the EcoBanner team on their achievement! Congratulations to the winners and the finalists of the Eco Fair submissions! We continue to work hard at EMPS to be an eco-friendly, eco-conscious community! Go Eagles Go!



Soaring Eagles Concert Band in Orillia!

Felicitations to the students on their amazing contribution and performance during this music festival! The Band received a Silver Ribbon Honours and was one of only 2 elementary school bands competing in the event. EMPS Eagles had the opportunity to play in competition with high school bands, receive in the moment feedback from adjudicators and had a great learning experience overall! Thank you to Mr. Mellor for organizing this opportunity and to the staff and teachers for their support!



APRIL IS SIKH HERITAGE MONTH:

On April 1st, 2021 Minister Bardish Chagger issued the following statement from Ottawa:

“Canada is proud to be home to more than 500,000 Sikh Canadians, making it one of the largest Sikh diasporas in the world. Since the arrival of the first Sikh immigrants in the late 19th century, members of this community have contributed to Canada through their achievements in all areas of society and have helped shape the diversity found within it.

Sikhism’s core principles include equality, generosity, openness, and compassion. Sikh Heritage Month is an opportunity to reflect on the pivotal role that Sikh communities have played, and continue to play, in building a stronger and consciously more inclusive Canada.”

April is an important month for the Sikh community. In this month, Sikh Canadians celebrate Vaisakhi, which marks the creation of the Khalsa and the Sikh articles of faith. Sikh Canadians widely celebrate Vaisakhi, also known as Khalsa Day, across Ontario.





Meetings:

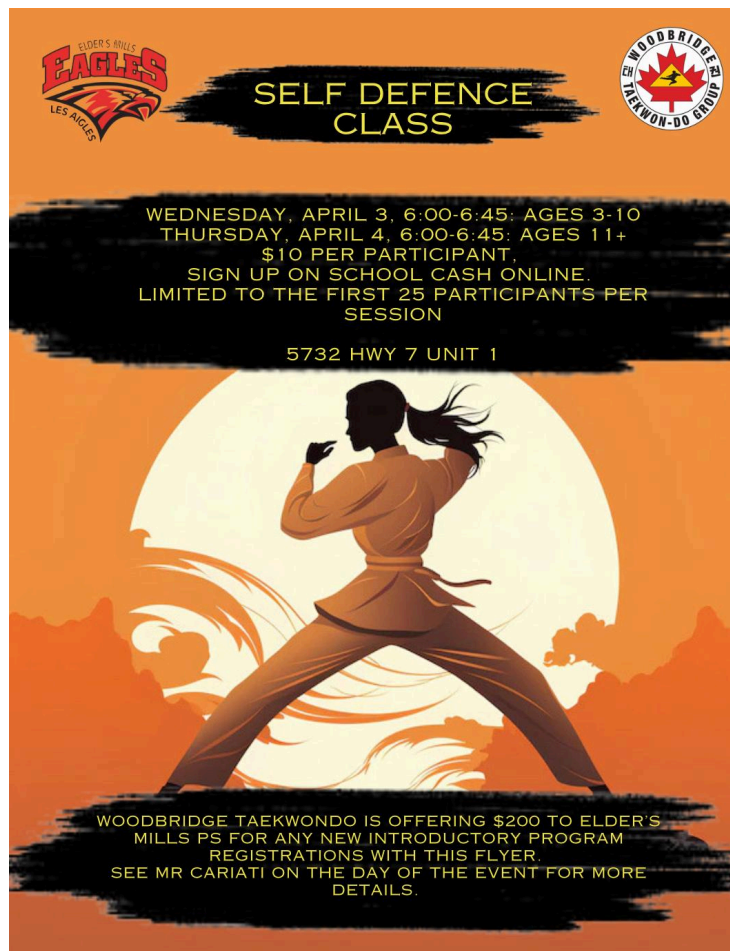
Our next School Council meeting is Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. If you are unable to join a meeting and would like to know the topics discussed, the meeting presentations are posted on the [School Council pages of the Elder's Mills website.](#)

The Self-Defence class registration is now available on School Cash online! Please sign up by April 1st.

Elder's Mills families will have the opportunity to try a Self-Defence class !

All proceeds raised from this event will go to support the school fundraising plan.

Details are available on School Cash online!



Food Bank Cake Mix



Join our initiative to sweeten someone's day! **Donate cake mix** to support the food bank.

Spread joy with a simple gesture - **contribute cake mix**

Help us bake smiles! **Your cake mix donation** will make a difference in someone's life.



USED BOOK DRIVE

School Council is collecting used books, board games, and puzzles.

Books, games, and puzzles will be sold at upcoming school events to raise funds for the school!

Please ensure books are appropriate and games and puzzles are complete!

Books, games, and puzzles can be sent to the school with your child immediately!
Reusable bags also appreciated!

Thank you for your support!

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

Yearbook on sale now!

We have opened up [School Cash online](#) for families who wish to purchase a yearbook. The cost per yearbook is \$30.00. Delivery is expected mid-June. Place your order by April 30th, 2024.

Are you moving?

Is your family planning a move? If your child is currently attending Elder's Mills and you know that they will be changing schools for September, please let our office team know as soon as possible. This information will support our planning for September. Please send an email to elders.mill.ps@yrdsb.ca. Thank you.



Summer Institute Registration

Looking for summer learning and fun activities for students entering Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8? Summer Institute offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum.



The program runs for six weeks during July and August. It is offered at nine school sites around York Region.

Week 27 - Thursday, March 28, 2024

For more information on dates, programs and locations, please visit the [Summer Institute webpage](#).

Registration opens March 27, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Families can register online.

Free Recreation, Sport Programs, Summer and Overnight Camps

For Children and Youth ages 4-18 whose families participate in one of the following:

- Ontario Works
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities
- Rent Subsidy (including STAR and Ontario Housing Benefit)
- Child Care Fee Subsidy (income below \$43,000)

Some programs are only eligible to families in York Region Housing Communities

- Housing York Inc.
- Non-Profit Housing
- Cooperative Housing

For More Program Information and Eligibility:

Call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 or visit york.ca/recreationsubsidies

Celebrating @ EMPS!

Students and staff create displays for Easter.

We have much to celebrate at Elder's Mills. We are a community of families, students and staff of diverse identities and we are reaching out to you to share the celebrations, traditions and stories, past and present, that are part of the Elder's Mills identities.

In looking ahead to April, families are invited to share artifacts and resources for Passover, Sikh Heritage Month, and more!



On the Horizon....

March

Character Trait: Perseverance

28 Good Friday (W) - School Closed

31 Easter Sunday(W)

March 11 - April 9 Ramadan

29 Good Friday (W)Christianity

Commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ, i.e., his submission to death by crucifixion.

31 Easter (W)Christianity

Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. It initiates the fifty-day period culminating in Pentecost.

April

April is Sikh Heritage Month

Character Trait: Respect

1 Easter Monday - School Closed

2 World Autism Awareness Day

8 Solar Eclipse - school dismissed at 12:15

10 Eid ul Fitr

14 Vaisakhi

17 Grades 4 - 6 Richmond Hill Performing Arts Centre

17 Grades 2 and 7 Dental Screening

17 Basketball Area Tournament - Jr. Boys

18 Basketball Area Tournament - Jr. Girls

18 Grade 8 Toronto Symphony

20 Ridvan

23 First Day of Passover

10 'Īd al-Fīr (Islam)

Literally the 'Festival of Breaking the Fast,' 'Īd al-Fīr is one of the most important Islamic celebrations . At 'Īd al-Fīr people dress in their finest clothes, adorn their homes with lights and decorations, give treats to children, and enjoy visits with friends and family. (Observance begins at sunset of the previous day, but special worship and prayers primarily begin April 10.)

14 Vaisakhi (Sikhism)

Vaisakhi is important for Sikhs because on this day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Guru, removed the clerical system from Sikhism. Thus he reaffirmed the direct connection between Sikhs and the Divine. Guru Gobind Singh Ji also created the Khalsa Panth, the Fellowship of the Pure. Khalsa brothers are given the name Singh (lion), and sisters are named Kaur (lioness or princess).

We wish our students and our families a very happy weekend!
To families celebrating Easter, we wish you a happy celebration.

We will see you on Tuesday, April 2nd!

Eugenia Korinis
Principal

Ayesha Mondal
Vice-Principal

